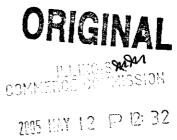
# OFFICIAL FILE ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION

# UN STATE OF ILLINOIS 63 ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION



Northern Illinois Gas Company d/b/a NICOR Gas Company	) ) )	04-0779	
Proposed general increase in natural gas rates. (Tariffs filed on November 4, 2004.)	) )		

# THE COOK COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AND THE CITIZENS UTILITY BOARD RESPONSE TO STAFF AND JOINT PARTIES MOTION TO SET A BRIEFING SCHEDULE

Pursuant to the ALJs' ruling and section 200.190 of the Commission's rules, the Cook County State's Attorney's Office ("CCSAO") and the Citizens Utility Board ("CUB") in response to the Illinois Commerce Commission Staff ("Staff") and other parties motion to set a schedule respectfully request the ALJs deny the motion for the reasons set forth below. 83 Ill. Adm. Code 200.190.

- 1. On May 3, 2005, Staff along with Northern Illinois Gas Company ("Nicor"), the Illinois Industrial Energy Consumers ("IIEC"), and Constellation New Energy-Gas Division ("CNE Gas") jointly requested that the ALJs set a briefing schedule in this matter now rather than waiting until the end of the evidentiary hearings. Staff Joint Motion at 1.
- 2. CCSAO/CUB object to the determination of a briefing schedule before evidentiary hearings are held. First, CCSAO/CUB has a pending motion to submit additional direct testimony. The granting of this motion may cause the need for additional hearing dates. Therefore, any schedule established now may need to be

changed. Second, the briefing schedule requires initial briefs due approximately three weeks after the hearings. Given the magnitude and importance of this case, three weeks is an extremely short amount of time for the submission of initial briefs. Moreover, Staff provides no reason for requesting such a short time frame for the initial briefs.

The Commission should also consider the fact that while the Company and Staff will be able to obtain the transcripts immediately after the hearing, the transcripts will not be available to other parties on the Commission web site until two weeks after the close of hearings. Accordingly, under the proposed schedule, CCSAO/CUB would only have a week to review transcripts and incorporate them before the briefs are due.

- 3. The ALJs ruled at the outset of this process that a briefing schedule would be established after hearings. Staff's request to set a briefing schedule now to avoid a vaguely described concern "to minimize conflicts with filing deadlines in other dockets" is not persuasive. Staff Motion at 2.
- 4. If the ALJs are inclined to set a briefing schedule now, then CCSAO/CUB submits that initial briefs should be due by 3 p.m. on June 24, 2005. Reply briefs and any proposed draft orders should be due by 3 p.m. on July 8, 2005. This schedule is reasonable and mindful of the ALJs prior rulings.

WHEREFORE, CCCSAO/CUB respectfully requests the ALJs deny adopting Staff's briefing schedule now and wait until the conclusion of the evidentiary hearings in this proceeding. Alternatively, CCASO/CUB requests that the ALJs adopt the briefing schedule as outlined above.

# Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: May 11, 2005

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# STATE OF ILLINOIS

# **ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION**

Illinois Commerce Commission	)
on its own motion	)
	) Docket No. 04-0779
Northern Illinois Gas Company d/b/a NICOR	)
Gas Company	)
	)
Reconciliation of Revenues collected under	)
Gas Adjustment Charges with Actual Costs	)
prudently incurred	)
	)
	)
Illinois Commerce Commission	)
on its own motion	)
N. d. 1811 Co. Commun. 1814 NICOD	· •
Northern Illinois Gas Company d/b/a NICOR	)
Gas Company	) }
Proceeding to review Rider 4, Gas Cost, pursuant	,
to Section 9-244(c) of the Public Utilities Act	<b>,</b>
to beclion 7-244(e) of the Fund offines rice	)
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Illinois Commerce Commission	ý
on its own motion	ý
	)
Northern Illinois Gas Company d/b/a NICOR	)
Gas Company	)
	)
Reconciliation of Revenues collected under	)
Gas Adjustment Charges with Actual Costs	)
prudently incurred	)

# **NOTICE OF FILING**

TO: See Attached Service List

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on this date May 11, 2005 we filed by sending through Federal Express today to the Chief Clerk of the Illinois Commerce Commission the enclosed

Copies of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office and the Citizens Utility Board's Response to Staff and Joint Parties Motion to Set A Briefing Schedule. This filing has been forwarded to the parties on the attached service list.

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#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, LEIJUANA DOSS, hereby certify that copies of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office and the Citizens Utility Board's Response to Staff and Joint Parties Motion to Set A Briefing Schedule were served on all parties on the attached list on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of May 2005 by Federal Express, or electronic mail, or U.S. first class mail prepaid.

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